

University of Mississippi

eGrove

Correspondence

Civil War Collection

8-2-1861

William C. Nelson to Maria C. Nelson (2 August 1861)

William Cowper Nelson

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ciwar_corresp



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nelson, William Cowper, "William C. Nelson to Maria C. Nelson (2 August 1861)" (1861). *Correspondence*. 654.

https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ciwar_corresp/654

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Civil War Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Camp Magnolia, August 2nd 61.

My Dear Mother,

Although I have not received a letter from Home for a week nor one from you for nearly a month, I will attribute your long reticence, rather to indisposition than to neglect. Jim has been unwell for the last few days; in washing some clothes he stuck a pin through one of his fingers, and hurt it very severely, it is getting well however now. Last Monday night I was made sergeant of the Picket guard which is nightly stationed on Fox Island, the island which is right opposite our camp between us and the Gulf, and on which Fort McRee is built, we have to go across in a boat, and about half past seven we started for the island. We do not go directly across, but down the lagoon three or four miles, and then across, so that the point at which we land is about six miles from camp. Our party consisted of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, 2 corporals 12 privates, and six boatmen, in all twenty two, it was after eight, probably nearly nine before we attempted to effect a

landing; when we had neared the shore to within 150 or 200 yards, we discovered that there were some men on the island. Before us, they appeared, themselves to be picked, for that two or three were walking, and several others were congregated in a squad by themselves, the sentinels as soon as they saw us, made for the squad, and our Lieut, not knowing how many might be concealed on the island, gave the order to the boatmen to pull back. We then steered immediately for Capt Clanton's camp, which is almost opposite the point where we attempted to land, he is Captain of a cavalry company and it was a party of his men, who killed three or four Dinobirds not long since, he dispatched a messenger immediately to Col. Chalmers, informing him of our discovery, he then selected 30 men out of his company, and procuring three small boats returned with us to the island, he had previously furnished ^{each of} us however with a Navy air shooter as his men were all armed with them in addition to their guns, we came up the lagoon this time, & landed about 2 miles above the usual point, we then marched down the island to the place where we saw the men, carefully examining every place, where there

was a possibility of their concealing themselves, we scoured the island however in vain for no Yankees were to be found; it is probable that they retreated as soon as they found out, they were discovered, it is supposed that they went to the island from one of the ships, with the expectation of capturing the pickets who went over, not being sufficiently cautious though, they saw that their project had failed, and went back, knowing that we would get re-inforced before returning. We stayed all night, passing most of the time in searching up and down the island, I confess I was pretty well tired-out the next morning.

An order was read out on dress-parade, evening before last, stating that during the month of August, there would be but 2 hours drilling per day, it is now much easier on us. The Colonel drills the Officers in a company by themselves every day at 10 o'clock, it is really amusing to see them in line, dressed and equipped just like a private. The weather here now is quite warm in the day time, but cool at night. Mr. Reville is at it, and a blanket then over

your shoulder is very comfortable,

Gus Powell and Patterson have gone in to another tent with Eddie Chew and Willie Willis, Eddie's Father sent him a nice new tent, and as Gus expects a servant from home shortly, I suppose he thought he would be more comfortable there.

We have received intelligence here that Young Christy from H.A. was killed at Manassas, it is also reported that Jimmy Crump was killed, I see that several of the University Greys were killed, among them Lieut. Whistland, and Orderly Sergeant Rice, I was very much grieved to hear of it, for they were both noble boys.

Young Fletcher from near Bay Ridge was killed accidentally two days after the battle, I don't know whether it was Tom or John, if you can learn please let me know, As they were both classmates of mine at College.

Jeff Posey sends his best wishes and kindest regards to your self and Father, I am much how'd to all, Miss Little Lis for me, and tell her if she will write to me. I won't show her letters to the naughty soldiers, Your loving son
Tell Tom I will write to him soon
Love
Vernon